Rome Nov.r 12. 1864

My dear Tom

This encloses the 2d 1/2 £5 note (No 98923 Gattie) for dear Maria Chambers. tells Mark you have been suffering much for some time which grieves me to hear & more so as we are in Nov.r — I still have a slight cough in my left foot, which no doubt is part of my losing sympathy for so dear a brother — yet I am glad to tell you that I am in splendid condition, taking "Bull by the horns" age even two hours before breakfast for I am engaged or rather carried by my fervid imagination to 3 works, one an Italian Novel, the 2d Keats' memoir & 3rd a work on Art. Then my painting & my Two Consulates with some 40 & 50 visits daily give me a good amount of [illegible] active life yet I am [illegible]

1864

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LONDON S.W.
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NO 29
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+ Mr Odo Russell (L^d Russell's nephew) just returned here a[s]ures that he heard me so favorably esteemed at the F.O. as ever highly praised. Am I not fortunate beyond all my poor abilities & deserts for even me Italia govt is equally generous to me — Next Summer I shall be able to step out & accept the Royal Villa offered me by the King of Italy & so renew all parties even the Papal party for you see I stand only dismissed by my party, hence my success! — But when I reflect on my tender education, the hereditary vocation, its enormous responsibility & importance, I am astonished & indeed feel grateful to a merciful Providence, raising me not only to such a position, but to the enabling me to be equal to it in all ways would that we two could be alike in this & that the same fortune might attend you this is my fervent prayer. — so I will hope better days & that you may still come & pay me a visit in my Roman sojourn, who knows even at the King's Villa Rufinella at Frascati next Summer, or in your holidays it might do you good, certainly it would me in haste Ever ever loving brother Joe

other day that after finishing his Vintage he went to return to his chief house & found the town surrounded by Brigands - the mayor went to the Governor of Rome & got him aid, & this I did with all the disposable troops which were sent at once - The moment is a critical one for dear Italy, but the Italians have so much forbearance such generosity & power of sacrifice that I think they will weather the storm - do you see that they offer a whole years taxes in advance to the distressed gov't this is wonderful & so they deserve to become a great nation - What fun! The Governor had to guess my age in a document & he actually put me at 45! which I did not contradict for I never cry "stinking fish" - you know I told you that most of my uncle being true on this for my enemies would dash me to the ground if they knew all Your loving brother Joe